

Win Moses

State Representative • District 81

Bipartisanship is the only answer to whatever Fort Wayne needs from the Legislature.

Legislatures are very partisan by their nature. I was surprised by how much greater the partisanship is in the House of Representatives than on the Fort Wayne City Council or serving as mayor. Each political party picks its goals and other issues often become hostages to those political directions.

To its credit, Fort Wayne has been well served by Representatives and Senators of both political parties. They have often put politics aside.

By working together, your Democrats and Republicans have made Fort Wayne a better place to live, work and raise a family. The Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce summed it up this way: *"Never before has our corner of the state come together as such a united front to achieve a common goal."* This was a description of all of our efforts to get monies for the Dalman Road Project that will connect the airport to I-69.



EMPHASIS

GREATER FORT WAYNE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



DALMAN ROAD is considered this year's biggest accomplishment among Northeast Indiana legislators, as well as local government and civic leaders. Here, Governor Frank O'Bannon speaks at a May 19 announcement at the site where Dalman Road will be extended to provide direct access between I-69 and the Fort Wayne International Airport.

'99 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP:

'Taxpayers are the winners'

by Amy L. Gibson, Chamber Director of Government and Community Affairs

One thing might be said about the 1999 session of the Indiana General Assembly: the taxpayers are the winners.

This is the message brought back to Fort Wayne by Senators Tim Wynn, David Long, and Bud Mueks in a press conference held at the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce two days after the session ended.

As a community, the greater Fort Wayne area has had an extremely successful session. Thanks to our dedicated and hard-working legislative delegation, we were able to make headway

in a number of areas which could favorably impact the business community of Northeast Indiana.

TAXATION AND BUDGET

For the first time in two decades, the Governor did not have to call the General Assembly back for a special session during a budget year. Historically, there has always been a special session when there is a Democrat-controlled House and a Republican-controlled Senate.

Which state has the lowest gas taxes?

According to AAA, **Indiana** has the lowest gas taxes nationwide

Thank you Governor Frank O'Bannon!

Other benefits of bipartisanship

Bipartisanship created several other benefits for the Fort Wayne region:

- Senate Enrolled Act 187 addressed several Fort Wayne specific issues. The legislation provides a \$4 million tax abatement for steel maker SDI, which is crucial to their long-term economic growth and stability. The legislation also allows for the transfer of new manufacturing equipment within the same granting body's jurisdiction to be afforded the right to keep its assessed value deduction. An 81st District company in Fort Wayne was seeking this provision or else would possibly relocate out of state. The legislation provides an exemption from the personal property tax for commercial passenger airplane maintenance located at the Fort Wayne International Airport. This will go a long way toward encouraging commercial maintenance facilities to locate in Fort Wayne.

- Senate Enrolled Act 216 provides that Allen County may adopt by ordinance, which it has subsequently passed, a supplemental food and beverage tax to ensure the expansion and renovation for the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. This supplemental tax will take the place of the current tax (which is set to expire), with the net result being no tax increase. The total amount of the tax will remain at 1 percent.

Another example of the benefits of bipartisanship is from the National Federation of Independent Business, "The Voice of Small Business." They were instrumental in helping to craft an Indiana solution to the problem of high inventory taxes. In a letter they stated, *"Importantly, we have had influence in bringing this about as we have continued to function over time in a very bipartisan manner working with both Democrat and Republican legislators . . . In this context, let me also share with you that we are receiving more support from Democrats in the Indiana General Assembly for our proposed small business inventory tax relief than we are from Republicans. It is a classic example of one of those times when conservative Democrats are more in tune with our objectives than our historic allies."* We did pass historic inventory tax relief that eliminated inventory taxes for 87 percent of Indiana businesses. Both Democrats, including myself, and Republicans voted for it!

Rep. Win Moses

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State legislative web site



The state web site provides a great deal of information about state government, the legislative process and other related items. The main site at www.state.in.us offers a nice starting point to explore government in Indiana.

From that starting point, you can visit the home pages of elected state officials and state agencies. In addition, several premium services are available for a monthly fee.

I encourage you to visit my web site at www.state.in.us/R81 and explore various items related to the legislature.

A new feature on my web site will allow you to request various House publications. We currently offer publications specifically designed for senior citizens, grade-school children, and high school students in the process of choosing a college. Other publications give a general overview of various Indiana state agencies, offer a guide to women's health and advise how to avoid being the victim of a scam. There is also a booklet available which details every bill that became law during this year's legislative session.

You may also request booklets by calling my legislative office at 1-800-382-9842.

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